CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW



16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 2217

Mass Times
Saturday **6pm**
Sunday **8.30am, 10.30am, 5pm**
Monday – Saturday **10am**
Reconciliation Saturday **10.30am** during Exposition. All Masses are livestreamed Livestream Mass

23rd – 29th August 2026 – 21st Sunday of Year A

A Parish Prayer for Peace 2026 Lord, send us the gift of peace. Change the hearts of those who choose violence and wage war. Turn them away from persecution and lead them towards peace. Transform hatred into understanding, anger into compassion, and fear into hope. Through your love, heal what is broken. Fill us with your Spirit, so that with one voice, we may cry out together, throughout the world: Lord, send us the gift of peace. Amen.

Readings: Is 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Matt 16:13-20
Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
Psalm: O LORD, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.
Intercession: Lord hear us…
Response: Lord, graciously hear us!
Next Wk: Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Matt 16:21-27

Ramblings

When Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?", Peter boldly answered with clarity and courage: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In this way Jesus entrusted Peter with the keys of the kingdom — not as a badge of privilege but as a mission of service. Keys in the ancient world signified authority, but this authority included responsibility. The responsibility to open, to welcome and to guard what is entrusted. Peter's authority is therefore pastoral and communal, exercised for the common good of the faithful, to lead people gently through the doors of the Church into an encounter with Christ.

St Augustine of Hippo reminds us of the heart behind such service: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." That rest Augustine spoke of is what Peter sought for others, opening paths so that restless hearts might find a home. Emmanuel d'Alzon urged the same missionary zeal: "Let us be apostles of the modern world." Together these voices call leaders to humble and courageous outreach.

A small parish once gave its elderly verger a literal set of keys. He took them everywhere — to the school, the soup kitchen, even the allotments. One morning he returned the keys with a jar of his best marmalade and a note: "Opened doors, closed hearts; marmalade fixes neither, but it helps." The congregation laughed, then realised the truth: authority that serves becomes sweetness for the whole community.

Today, under the guidance of our present Pope Leo XIV, that same spirit endures — leadership that protects, teaches and opens doors, never locking people out. Authority in the Church is a stewardship of love and a public trust for the salvation of souls.

So let us carry our keys — literal or spiritual — with vigour, humility and a wink of humour, ready to open the way for others to meet the living God.

Diary Dates

Sun 23 August



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support the activities of the **Scout Jamboree in Poland next year**. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale All are welcome especially new parishioners.

6-7pm RCIA 'Come & See' Taster E.C.

Mon 24 August

No Parent & Toddlers

No Beavers & Cubs

Tue 25 August

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm – 4pm Craft Club LCR

No Scouts

Weds 26 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 27 August

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 28 August

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Study Fr Andrew, Christopher Hse

Sat 29 August

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Prayer diary 🙏

Tuesday	**11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Wednesday	**9.30am Rosary** Church
Thursday	**6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Friday	**9.30am Rosary** Church
Saturday	**10.30 Exposition & Reconciliation**

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

Upcoming Sacramental Prep Please contact LJ ljross@rcdow.org.uk or visit our website for further details.

RCIA Our last 'Come and See' session is on **Sunday 23rd August, 6-7pm**. This informal & friendly taster session is a perfect opportunity to learn what the RCIA process is all about, to ask questions and meet the team, before our new cycle begins in the Autumn Term. RCIA is perfect for: non-Catholics interested in baptism or conversion, non-Catholic parents seeking baptism for their children, Catholics who may not have attended Mass in a while, or practising Catholics who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. All are welcome.

First Holy Communion 2027 Applications for the preparation of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (for those in Year 3 and above) will open on **1st September**. Application forms will be available on our website by the end of August.

Marriage: Our next Marriage Preparation Course is from 10am-4pm on **Saturday 3rd October**. We hold our courses twice a year, please register with LJ asap if you are hoping to get married in (any) Catholic Church within the next year.

Baptism: A Baptism Preparation Course is a requirement for parents seeking baptism for their child. Our next course is from 3-5pm on **Sunday 18th October**.

Sunday September 13th is Fr Andrew's 90th birthday and we will be celebrating it with our usual fun bring and share lunch after the 10.30 Mass in the parish hall. Please sign up on the poster in the porch indicating your name, how many are attending and what you can bring and if you can help set up or clear after. There will be a card to sign in the porch very soon so please watch out for it and add your birthday greetings for our dear Fr Andrew.

The Funeral for **Barbara Felton** is **21st August at 1pm at North Herts Crem.**
The Funeral for **Carmela Lanni** is **24th August at 11:30am.**
The Funeral for **David Ansell** is **25th August at 10:00am.**
The Funeral for **Gereminio 'Jimmy' Diiorio** is **4th September at 11:30am.**

Need for prayer? Contact *Mary* on *07759195487* with your request

Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Norman New, Steph Diaz, Harriet Parry, Rogan Hodgeson, Rita Lambie, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell families, Stella Paterson, Antoinette Fernandes, Vincent Turner, Paul O'Reilly, Pauline Phillips, Steph Dias, Glennice Burlison, Michael Burke, Evie Roberts, Ken Buck, Elizabeth Donnelly, Jim Brookes and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Michael Donnelly, Bernado Coco, Peter Deuchar, Jenny Frantisek, Bridget Doye, Angela Grounds and Jeremiah Radley. **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Fifty Years Ago… On June 4th mass was offered to remember two Assumptionist Brothers, Carlos Antonio De Pietro and Raul Rodrigues who were kidnapped in 1976 during the military dictatorship. Both had just made their final vows. They were taken away in a car and never seen again. Their apostlate had been among the poor of Buenos Aires and certainly was non-political.

Parish Tel no: 01462 459126	**Website**:https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin

Parish Safeguarding representative: Tomasz Pernak via hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest	Fr Roger Kasereka rogerkaserekasyayipuma@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest	Fr Romaric Ablouka
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

Sacramental Co-ordinator	L J Ross	ljross@rcdow.org.uk	press 3
Administrator	Siobhan Morgan	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk	press 2

Please note that the Administrator's working hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri (9am-2pm). The Administrator works from home on Mondays, but is contactable by email.